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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: ) INLINE WATER FILTER  
PHILLIP A. SWANSON )  
Serial No. 10/800,545 ) Group Art Unit 1723  
Filed March 15, 2004 ) Preliminary Class: \_\_\_\_\_  
Docket No. SWANSON1 ) Customer No. 23587

CITATION OF PRIOR ART

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

It is requested that the following United States patents be considered by the Examiner in his examination of the above-identified application:

Schilling	758,150
Collin	948,311
Hunter et al.	3,685,657
Turetsky	4,178,250
Movshovitz	4,604,202
Hendrix	4,609,459
Justice	5,078,862
Gilbert	5,223,136
Cooper	5,492,143
Scrogam et al.	5,992,643
Mizrahi	6,494,325

Enclosed is an Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant (Form PTO/SB/8A).

Briefly, the invention relates to an inline water filter which includes flexible inlet and outlet connecting tubes and an intermediate filter body joined together by a pair of dual-diameter connector fittings defining a flow passageway therethrough. Filter media is disposed within the filter body and within enlarged sections of the fittings. The connecting tubes are held onto the barbed fittings by tube clamps or ferrules crimped thereover and have connectors at their free ends for attachment respectively to a fluid source and a fluid delivery point.

Of the prior art patents cited, the most pertinent prior art patents appear to be Mizrahi et al., Schilling, Gilbert and Scrogham et al..

Mizrahi U.S. Patent No. 6,494,325 shows a toilet water-line filter in which a mesh straining element is positioned within a housing which may be threaded by means of external wings intermediate the toilet fill valve and a flexible supply line.

Schilling U.S. Patent No. 758,150 shows a straining device attachable to a water inlet pipe with a two-part strainer having a wire screen of coarse mesh and one downstream of very fine mesh. The nipples at the inlet and outlet ends are provided with ordinary unions to allow connection along the water line.

Gilbert U.S. Patent No. 5,223,136 and Scrogham et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,992,643 show filters which are mounted within rigid elongate pipes that are attached inline with

supply lines.

Movshovits U.S. Patent No. 4,604,202 discloses a mesh-type filter which may be threaded onto the end of a faucet or nozzle.

Turetsky U.S. Patent No. 4,178,250 shows a filter-purifier cartridge having a hollow core containing purifying medium and a surrounding filter element with fluid passing through the purifier medium and the filter element.

Collin U.S. Patent No. 948,311 shows a water strainer attachable to the helical threads of a conventional outdoor faucet or bib.

Hendrix U.S. Patent No. 4,609,459 discloses a filter apparatus, having a hollow, T-shaped, rigid body, which may be connected along a water line and has filter elements which may be interchanged or replaced.

The use of flexible hoses with filters are shown in Hunter et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,685,657 wherein the fabric covering acts as a strainer and Justice U.S. Patent No. 5,078,862 wherein a lint trap filter is employed in a washing machine drain hose.

Cooper et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,492,143 shows a cup-shaped mesh filter mounted within a enlarged portion of a flow passage of a valve inlet.

Presented in the application are 22 claims with claims 1, 15, and 21 being independent and the remaining claims being dependent on these 3 claims. The above patents illustrate a portion of the wide array of filters that have been designed, but none are constructed within the scope of the claims presented by the applicant.

Independent claim 1 calls for an inline filter assembly comprising elongate flexible inlet and outlet tubes and intermediate filter body, each defining a flow passage providing fluid communication therethrough, a first fitting for connecting the inlet tube to the filter body having a relatively small diameter upstream end portion, a relatively large diameter downstream end portion and a passageway for fluid flow, a second fitting for connecting the outlet tube to the filter body having a relatively large diameter upstream end portion, a relatively small diameter downstream end portion and a passageway for fluid flow, and filter media disposed within the filter body for removing impurities from fluid flowing therethrough.

None of the prior art patents or combination thereof show this claimed construction. Particularly, none of the prior art patents show a water filter including flexible inlet and outlet tubes with an intermediate filter body joined to the inlet and outlet tubes, all defining a passageway for fluid flow from one end of the assembly to the other, and having filter media disposed within the filter body for removing impurities from fluid flowing therethrough. None of the prior art, individually or collectively, teaches or suggests the construction as claimed. Thus, claim 1 should be patentable. Allowance is respectfully solicited.

Claims 2 through 14 are dependent on claim 1. Claim 2 relates to the diameter of the fitting passageways, while claims 3 through 14 relate to the number, type and placement of filtering media. Dependent claims 2 through

14 are believed to be patentable for the same reasons set forth with respect to claim 1 and should also be allowed.

Independent claim 15 is somewhat similar to claim 1, but specifies that the respective internal diameters of the passageway in the fittings are larger at their proximal ends, the ends connected to the intermediate filter body.

Once again no similar water filter with the claimed parts and interconnections is shown in the prior art and therefore none can have the parts and interconnections between those parts as set forth in claim 15. Since no similar structure is shown or taught by the prior art, claim 15 should be allowed as well as dependent claims 16 - 20, which call for fittings with external ribs extending radially outward for limiting movement of the parts on the fittings and tube clamps for holding the filter body and inlet and outlet tubes on the fittings.

Independent claim 21 is somewhat similar to claim 15, but further specifies that the filter body be flexible, that the fittings have external ribs extending radially outward for limiting movement of the parts on the fittings, and tube clamps for holding the filter body and inlet and outlet tubes on the fittings. Claim 22 calls for second filter media within one of the fittings.


No similar water filter is shown or suggested by the prior art with the parts formed, arranged and interconnected as set forth in claim 21. Therefore, claim 21 should be allowed as well as claim 22 depending therefrom.

None of the prior art concerning water filters suggests the form of parts and their relationship and interconnection as claimed. Since none of the above prior art patents shows the applicant's concept for a water filter using flexible hoses and fittings connected as claimed, the prior art is dissimilar to the applicant's design and does not bar allowance of the presented claims.

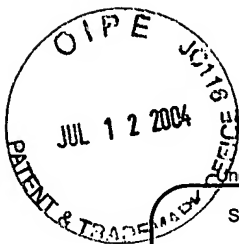
For the reasons stated, it is believed that all of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the foregoing patents in the prior art, and an early action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 7, 2004

  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/800,545
Filing Date	03/15/2004
First Named Inventor	Phillip A. Swanson
Art Unit	1723
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	SWANSON1

Sheet 1 of 1

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US- 758,150-B1	04-26-1904	Schilling	
		US- 948,311-B1	02-08-1910	Collin	
		US- 3,685,657-B1	08-22-1972	Hunter et al.	
		US- 4,178,250-B1	12-11-1979	Turetsky	
		US- 4,604,202-B1	08-05-1986	Movshovitz	
		US- 4,609,459-B1	09-02-1986	Hendrix	
		US- 5,078,862-B1	01-07-1992	Justice	
		US- 5,223,136-B1	06-29-1993	Gilbert	
		US- 5,492,143-B1	02-20-1996	Cooper et al.	
		US- 5,992,643-B1	11-30-1999	Scrogam et al.	
		US- 6,494,325-B1	12-17-2002	Mizrahi	
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**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				

Examiner  
Signature

John C. Shepard, Reg. # 28345

Date  
Considered

July 7, 2004

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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